

6.0 CUMULATIVE EFFECTS AND LONG-TERM ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES OF THE PROPOSED ACTION

Cumulative impacts are additive effects over time on the same or related resources from multiple actions or causes. The Integrated Power Generation System for Coal Mine Waste Methane Utilization, if successful, could continue to be operated by the Industrial Participant, or a successor, as a commercial activity after the completion of the demonstration period under the cooperative agreement with DOE. The project would continue to utilize waste methane from the mine, which would continue to realize the benefits of reducing methane emissions and converting a waste product to beneficial use. The generation of electricity from methane would offset an equivalent amount of generation from conventional sources, which in this geographic area would most likely be from coal-fired steam generation. No adverse cumulative effects or long-term consequences on any resource could be identified for the proposed action.

A successful demonstration of the Integrated Power Generation System could lead to similar installations at other sites. These sites could, but would not necessarily, be located in Monongalia County. Following a successful demonstration, it is likely that subsequent projects - should they occur - would be undertaken as commercial operations without cost-shared funding by DOE.

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